

GAY & LESBIAN MAGAZINE CONTACTS

接觸雜誌

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MAGAZINE

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August/September
1995

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The bad news last month was that the Equal Opportunities Bill proposed by Anna Wu was defeated, in the Legislative Council, by 31 votes to 24. In fact given the amount of sabotaging the Government, in the shape of Michael Suen, the Secretary for Home Affairs, did its a wonder the Bill wasn't defeated more heavily. It does go to show that the issues in the Bill, anti discrimination on the grounds of age, sexuality and family status are areas that do concern our representatives.

It is clearly blatant time-wasting to suggest that the public needs to be fully consulted before any laws are passed. No government could possibly get any legislation passed if they took this attitude (although in principle we agree that it would be a model government that did).

This is bad news for Lesbians & Gays as it means that unlike most other minority groups we don't have any protection in law.

The Liberal Party (surely a misnomer?) that by its name ought to have been right in there championing the needs of all minority groups were the people who voted en bloc to oppose the Bill.

We can't help believing that it is both immoral and unethical for civil servants, of whatever rank, to get involved in the very legislation they will later be required to enforce. Rather like asking the judiciary to make the laws so that they can then admonish the wrongdoers.

The other bad news was that the Government are sending the very same Secretary for Home Affairs, Michael Suen, to the world conference on women, in Beijing, to represent them. Mr Suen has demonstrated very well within the past year that he has little understanding of the issues facing women in Hong Kong. Indeed women's groups have complained bitterly that he has no dialogue with them at all. To add further insult it was Mr Suen who said during a debate that pregnancy was not a gender issue!

The Good News is that we won't have to worry that Michael Suen will be representing Hong Kong or the Gay Community at the next International Lesbian & Gay Conference to be held in 1996 in Europe.

As a community we need to get organised so that when the Bill is re-introduced we are well represented and prepared for the political fray.

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Front: From a painting by Mandy Boursicot

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十五分鐘的旅程



面坐，如有選擇他們會選擇另外的交通工具。

但我卻來一個一百八十度的大迴旋，我不單不會悶，反然覺得有趣。這個特殊的舉動，大致也可以說是我的嗜好。

我姓紀名高，是不是一個很怪的名字，我常常都取笑自己又要高高在上，又要紀人優天。雖然有點怪，但我還是喜歡。

我喜歡乘地鐵的主要原因是因為我喜歡留意別人的舉止。在地車內每一種時間都有不同的人仕，不同的人他們的表情都會不一。像早上所有人都會一窩蜂地去乘地鐵，有些人在家沒有時間理髮嗎？不要緊，可以對著地鐵內的玻璃理髮。昨晚打通宵牌，沒有精神嗎？可以當地車內的座椅是床，當其他人不存在，坐位已給其他人占了，不重要，索性站著睡。總言之，一句話，地鐵內的風光是千奇百怪，無所不有。所以我又怎會悶？

今天，下了班後如常地去乘地鐵回家，由公司到家的車程大約要十五分鐘。

正當我由扶手電梯下去乘地鐵時，突然間有一種很奇怪的強烈感覺，這種感覺越來越強烈，我的心隨著這種怪感覺的增加也相應跳得急速，我並不知道為何我會有這種怪感覺，但，當我向左望時，我望見他了，他也正望著我。當我們的視線一經接觸我便如著了魔，我們的視線緊鎖，雖然我和他的方向不同，一個往下，而另外一個就往上，

我們如心意相通般，我的腳步往上移，而他則往下移。另到大家的位置都保持著同一的位置上。

直至站在我身後的人大呼「痴線老，要玩便到遊樂場玩，不要阻住你老子我。」

經他這一喝我才如夢初醒，連聲說對不起。雖然我的腳步並沒有再往下移，但我還是往後看，想看多他一刻。

朋友常常誇張地說在地車內他經常有被釣的經驗，而我卻對他說：「上得山多終遇虎呀！不要濫交。」但此時此刻我不是在釣魚嗎？

當電梯到達後，我是可以在那裏等他或是上去找他，但我沒有，我這樣警惕朋友，而我現在居然想和一個從不想識的人打交道，不是自己打自己咀巴是什麼？但我還是油疑地等還是不等他。

剛剛有一部地鐵到站，我再沒有時間考慮了，我步上地鐵，但在最後一刻我還是回頭望，我希望他會追來，然後伸出他的手拉我下車。是否太過戲劇化，可能看得小說多罷！但很失望，直止地鐵門關上他還是沒有出現。

我倚在靠門的位置，我並沒有被地鐵內的乘客吸引，我沒有留意他們的舉動，我只是閉上眼睛。

突然間我腦內想起昨天的事情。昨天幾個朋友在佐治家打牌，不知是誰說佐治的占卜非常之靈驗。

當時我還說「占卜都會準，為什麼他們不卜卜下期六合彩的號碼給自己。」

佐治立即說「不信，讓我為你占個卦吧！」

「好，我想知道明天有什麼特別的事情會發生在我身上？」

佐治很認真說「好，你等等。」

大約過了二十分鐘後，他拿出一塊黑色的絨布及一副紙牌。我說「只

是取一副紙牌和一塊布，為何去這樣久。」

他沒有答我，他將黑布鋪在桌上，手拿著紙副，很認真的語氣說「紀高，坐下。」佐治叫我坐在他對面。然後說「你想問什麼？」

雖然我想笑，還是強忍著說「我想知道明天有沒有什麼特別的事會發生在我身上。」

「好，這個容易得很。將你的左手放在我的左手上，然後用右手倒倒我右手手上的紙牌。」

我依他的說話做。做完後，他放開了我的左手及開始發牌，他一連發了幾張紙牌，然後收回，再重覆發紙牌數次後。

他開始說「明天，你會和一個人相會，這個人是男的對你很重要，你和他都會乘著一條鐵龍從兩個不同的方向和對方見面。」

當其時，我一點都不信，在這個世紀還會有龍的出現，而且還說我會騎著他和另一個男人相會，我連駕駛執照都無，又怎何控制一條龍，更可況是一條鐵龍。但今天，不由我不信，我不是坐在一條鐵龍之上和他見面嗎？

當我再次閉上眼睛時，他的五官清晰地在我腦海浮現。他帶著一副金邊的眼鏡，濃密的眉毛，更顯得他的雙眼有神。他的頭髮是棕色的，他的鼻子高挺，很好看；他的咀很細唇很薄，像有千言萬語想和你細說。他是我見過眾多男人之中最有吸引力的一個。我不知道當他說「去我寓所喝杯咖啡好嗎？」我會否說「不」。

正當我沈醉在自己的想像，那種怪感覺又開始了。今次比上次更加強烈，不到一秒我的心跳已經加速，如你站在我身旁，我想你可以聽到我的心在跳。

當我睜開眼時，他就站在我的身旁，望著我。雖然身旁還有其他的乘

客，但我並沒有逃避他的眼神，我給他一個微笑。我笑他也笑，他笑時很好看，很孩子氣，但男子氣又不缺，很特別的一個男人。

我們在地車內並沒有談上半句，只是眼望著對方，但好像已經相識了很久，是一個熟人，不雖要交談也可知對方想說什麼，想表達什麼。

其實人的語言可以用來表達感情的少之又少，何況有時文字和語言遠不及身體語言所表達的十分之一。

我真的很享受望著他，我希望可以永遠都望著他，但地車到站了。要到分手的時候了，我不想下車，但還是下了。

我望著他，我的眼神好像說「跟我下車吧！」他好像聽到我腦中的說話，他向我領首，然後便跟著下車。

我們並沒有即時離開車站，我雙手交叉放在身後，身體不聽使喚地左搖右擺，但我的雙眼並有離開他的視野。

如果給朋友見到我此時此景，他們一定會登報說我是個大白痴，與我斷絕來往。我自己都覺得很傻，居然會等一個不相識的人開口約會我，而我又不知我有否膽量應約。真的很傻。他只是站在我身旁，他不約我，我可以約他的，但我沒有這樣做。還是默默地站著，我對自己說給他五分鐘，時間一過便走。

突然他將手放在我的肩膀上，我並沒有逃避，我可以感覺得到一股暖流從他的手上傳來，很舒服的一種感覺。

他說「到我寓所喝杯咖啡好嗎？」

我很油疑去還是不去，最後我還是說「我有約，但還未到時間，不如找間咖啡室談談好嗎？」

他聽後並沒有表現不快，還愉快說「好，你想去那裏都隨你。」

我隨口說「你是不是對所有人都這樣油腔滑調呀！」

他緊張地說「不，不，不。」一連說了幾個不字，才說「我只是對著你才會，你不要誤會，我不是那種人，我並沒有什麼企圖的，只是想跟你做個朋友吧。」

我想我可以信任這個男人，我說「我知道在附近有間咖啡室的咖啡特別香濃。」

「紀高，還記得十年前的第一次見面嗎？」

「思考我。當然記得，在扶手電梯。你上我下。」

「十年了，還記得。十年前的事就如昨日發生一般，這樣便過了十年了。」

「謝菲，在這十年間你開心嗎？」

「還用說，自第一天見到你開始，祇要每天見到你，我便感到非常滿足。你呢？」

「我當然開心，每一個晚上只要有你睡在我身旁，我才可以安然地進入夢香，否則，我便輾轉難眠。」

「紀高，為什麼在那天我請你上我的住所喝咖啡你不去呀！」

「因為是第一次的原因，我不想有什麼事發生。」

謝夫狡猾地笑說「你認為會有什麼事發生呢！」

我老實地說「我不想第一次見面便和你上床。」

「你認為我會在第一次見面時便和人上床嗎？」

「當時我怎知道呀。朋友常常說當另一個男人想和你上床時，他們總是說到他們的住所喝咖啡，所以我便堅持要去咖啡室。」

「但十年後呢？」

「經過十年後，我可以肯定說你不會和一個第一次見面的陌生男人上床。」

十年了，這樣快便過了十年了。在這十年間我的生活有很大的轉變，我變得很會打理家務，學識弄菜，以往和母親同住時，連一隻杯一隻碟也不大願意洗，現在什麼也學會了。當然謝夫也會，我們兩個人做什麼也一起，當然也包括床上做的，如麥當娜的一首歌內的歌詞我這樣高興是因為現在跟我做愛的就是今天早上離開床上的同一個男人。

愛

真的可以改變任何人

愛

的真義是互相忍讓
互相扶持

愛

不雖要說假話
只雖用真心真意

龍子

願天下的同志找到他心中所愛

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Germany

A Federal appeals court in Germany ruled against an advertising campaign used by the Italian retailer Benetton that used AIDS, child labour, and ecological disaster as themes. The court held that the ads violated the principles of fair competition by using compassion for commercial reasons. One poster, for example, features a bare male bottom stamped with the words "HIV Positive." The court ruled that this poster also went against human dignity, and that all three themes broke the moral code.

Japan

Following international pressure from gay groups, the Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology has removed homosexuality from its list of disorders, reports the Tokyo gay group Occur. The society will now rely on the World Health Organisation's disease-classification manual, which considers gayness OK.

Netherlands

The Netherlands will legalise gay marriage this summer, reports Henk Krol, editor of *De Gay Krant*, Holland's leading gay newspaper. "The Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State for Internal Affairs have announced that the marriage rules will be changed," Krol said in an e-mail message. "Their new rules, that will include gays and lesbians without any restrictions, will be sent to parliament before the summer holidays. "Only (the) CDA (party) and small Christian groups are against it," Krol said. "We have 150 members of Parliament — 42 are against, 14 don't know yet, 94 will pass the new bill!" More than 100 Dutch cities and towns already allow gays and lesbians to record their relationships in a symbolic "marriage register." Krol says that when gay marriage is legalised, the 800 couples that have signed these registers will automatically be legally married.

Vietnam

Vietnam has recorded 2,520 cases of HIV infection, 80 percent of them among drug addicts and more than half in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), the National AIDS Protection Committee reported in June.

UK

London's 14-year-old free weekly newspaper *Capital Gay* shut down last month. "The advertising has just dropped off to the extent where we can't carry on," said owner Michael Mason. In gay journalism circles, *Capital Gay* was widely considered to be among the five best gay publications in Europe.

Philippines

Beth Lim and Vangie Castronuevo were sacked from their jobs at Balay Rehabilitation Centre, a human rights organisation in Manila, because they were lesbians. Beth & Vangie have decided to fight back. They have filed a complaint with the National Labour Relations Commission. They demand: 1) reinstatement of their jobs; 2) a public apology; 3) payment for exemplary & moral damages. This is the first case of its kind in Filipino legal history and in Asia.

UK

Brewing giant Guinness is planning an advertising campaign for its stout featuring the first homosexual couple to appear in a British television commercial. The new commercial, set to be screened next month, shows a couple having a fight. Only at the end does it become clear they are both male, the sources said. The commercial is to carry the slogan "Guinness: Life isn't always black and white" and use a soundtrack of Tammy Wynette's hit "Stand By Your Man," the sources said.

In the silence of darkness, there are stars and hope.
We offer support and service.

在寂靜的黑暗中，
仍有星光和希望，
我們樂於提供支持和服務。

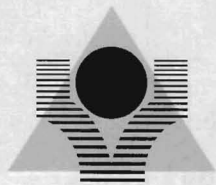
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Out about

Petticoat Lane
Sultry Sundays. Did you know that Petticoat Lane is now open Sunday evenings? It's the perfect place for a quiet, after a Saturday night binge, drink. The address and phone number is in the Gay Guide at the back of this issue of the magazine.

Y e a h , S u r e

Le Bar Bat: After the much heralded and self praised opening last year, the most prestigious bar in Lan Kwai Fong (as they described themselves), has closed. For a mere \$2,000 you could have been a member of what one wit described as a velvet lined black box. Blaming local punters for not being daring enough (for what isn't clear) the spokesperson told other bars "We're just closing for re-decoration". Now where did we hear that before?

Karaoke Competition
Can you sing? Isvara, the Gay Buddhist group are holding a Karaoke competition on Sunday 20th August from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. As there will be cash prizes as well as much sought after CDs the event is sure to be well attended. The address is Baden Powell Restaurant, 1/F, 34, Oi Kwan Road Wan Chai. To register as a competitor call 112 8903 call 8862 Mr Lo.

WHEN

Hong Kong's first Gay column

Robin Adams
Barrie Brandon
Jenniver Lam

Eastern Express

WHAT

WHERE

Every Tuesday

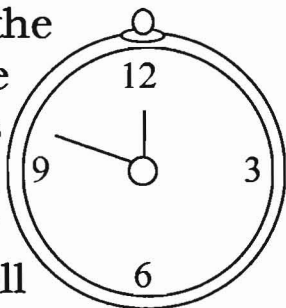
WHO

Quote of The Month

"Heterosexuality
is not normal,
just common"

Derek Jarman

Longer opening. The Happy Hour at Club '97 every Friday has proved so popular with the crowd that the closing time has been extended to 10 p.m. Very good news for all those who were still trying to get a drink at 9!



29th
Holiday Opening. As the last weekend of August will be public holidays Propaganda will be open on Sunday 27th. They will rest on Monday and be open for business,, as usual, on Tuesday the 29th.

MOVE

The new venue for the Shadow Nite disco in Singapore is The Gate. Orchard Hotel. 422. Orchard Road. Singapore. Tel: 7396747. They are open Sundays from 9 p.m. to 3 am. Due to the continuing police harassment of Gay in Singapore discos regularly move premises.

Stew & Steam



G/F 21-23 Tai Wong Street East, Wan Chai. Seems to be the latest 'in' place for good Cantonese food, at reasonable prices. And NO MSG so all you taste are the natural flavours of the food. Be warned the place has, at last, been discovered by the Gay crowd! When we ate there last month we saw 16 other Gay people there, and they weren't in one party.

OutRage!

OutRage!

OutRage!



As Right Reverend John Taylor rose to give his farewell address, protesters stormed the altar chanting "Taylor Out, Courage Out". Unable to continue his sermon, the Bishop left the pulpit which was immediately taken over by one of the activists who delivered an alternative sermon. Protesters were shaken by the level of violence used by church officials, including clergy, who unsuccessfully tried to silence them.

"It was amazing to see so-called peace loving Christians resort to violence to stop our protest. I was put in an arm-

lock and punched", one protester complained. The protest ended after 10 minutes. Protesters left blowing whistles and chanting "Church of hatred, Church of fear, Stop crucifying queers".

The out-going Bishop, Rt. Revd. John Taylor is a supporter of the Courage Trust (an ex-Gay group) which seeks to change people's sexuality from Gay to straight. The Courage Trust has operated out of his diocese for a number of years with his knowledge and support. The Bishop has repeatedly refused to comment on the matter. This is in spite of the Archbishop of Can

terbury's statement that "there is no place for homophobia in the Church".

Such groups have a history of damaging their victims using Moony-style tactics of isolation and indoctrination. Evidence from America shows that some victims of ex-Gay organisations there have subsequently attempted suicide and self-mutilation.

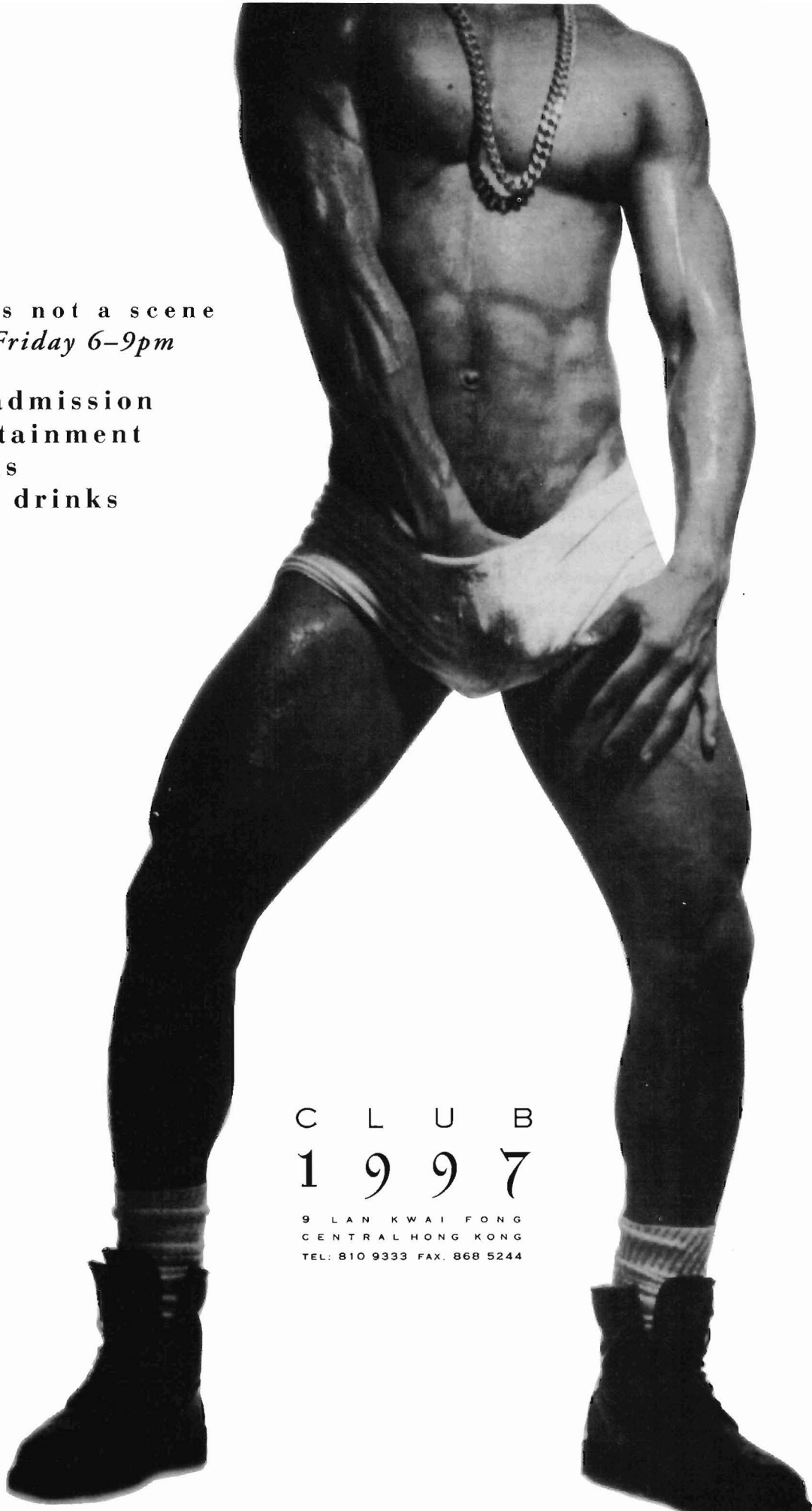
Despite assurances that the Church was considering with urgency the concerns of the Lesbian and Gay community, the Archbishop of Canterbury admitted at last week's Synod in York that they had not considered the matter at all. OutRage! has repeatedly tried to get the Church hierarchy to address the issue of ex-Gay groups and acknowledge the emotional damage that such groups do to the vulnerable, often young, people that they target.

OutRage! spokesperson Glenn Halton said "Today's action sends a message to the Church of England that the Lesbian and Gay Community will not stand by as the Church allows other Gay people to be damaged in the name of their religion by fundamentalist bigots. We are seeking an unequivocal condemnation of the actions of the ex-Gay groups from the Church and will not stop our campaign of disruption until the Church acknowledges its moral responsibilities."

Meanwhile On 21st July 1995 OutRage! members intervened at a meeting of another ex-Gay group, the 'True Freedom Trust' at one of its 'support groups' at the Westbourne Park Baptist Church in North London. They gave out leaflets with information about responsible groups for Lesbian and Gay Christians and engaged Trust members in dialogue.

Bishop who supports fundamentalist homophobic cults driven from his own farewell service by angry protesters.

OutRage! on Sunday interrupted the Farewell to the Bishop service for the Bishop of St. Albans with its own Good Riddance to the Bishop protest in St. Albans Cathedral.



this is not a scene
every Friday 6-9pm

free admission
entertainment
snacks
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What does it mean to be a Lesbian? Lesbians are women-loving-women. We are women who are sexually attracted to other women. We are women who may feel emotionally and spiritually closer to women. We are women who prefer women as our partners.

books" Terryle, age 16.

During adolescence, most young women begin to be aware of sexual feelings and take an interest in dating. Many young women feel physically attracted to men. But many other young women feel physically attracted to other women.

You may notice that you feel turned on by other women. You may feel different from your girlfriends, like you don't fit in sometimes. When your girlfriends are checking out boys, you may find yourself checking out girls. Going out with boys may not interest you. You may find yourself wondering, "Why aren't there any men like these terrific women I keep meeting?"

You may also feel confused or unsure about whether or not you're a Lesbian. Many adults will tell us that we're too young to call ourselves gay, or that we're going through a phase, or that we don't know what we're talking about. That's their way of avoiding the fact that some of us are Lesbian youth.

You may feel confused because you're attracted to both men and women. That's

a very young age, maybe even at birth.

It's normal and healthy to be yourself, whether you're gay or straight. What's really important is that we learn to like ourselves.

What is it like to be young and Lesbian? "I feel very powerful, special, independent, strong, and courageous" Natalie, age 18.

"It's scary sometimes. I've felt very unsure of myself. But other times I feel wonderful and proud" Terryle, age 16.

There's no "right" way or "wrong" way to be a Lesbian. Because of society's stereotypes about Lesbians that we've all grown up with, you might think you have to be a certain way if you're a Lesbian. But Lesbians come in all shapes and sizes, from all occupations, and with all levels of education.

Your sexual orientation is only one part of who you are. You probably have hobbies and interests that are the same as your straight friends.

Because of homophobia and prejudice,

Lesbian

Life

As Lesbians, we are not alone. One out of ten teenagers is Lesbian or gay. Many famous women in history were Lesbians. Lesbians are teachers, doctors, lawyers, factory workers, police officers, politicians, ministers, movie stars, artists, mothers, nuns, truck drivers, models, novelists. You name it, we do it.

Lesbians are White, Black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist. Lesbians are rich, poor, working class, and middle class. Some Lesbians are in heterosexual marriages. Some Lesbians are disabled. Lesbians are young women and old women. You name it, we are it.

Lesbians live in cities and in the country. We are everywhere. How do I know if I'm a Lesbian? "When I was young I always wanted to grow up and live with my best girlfriend, and that feeling never changed as I got older" Tammy, age 17.

"When we're really young, we have crushes on girls, but then we're supposed to grow out of it. We're supposed to read books about how girl meets boy and boy meets girl. Well, I'd never finish those

OK. Some women have relationships with both men and women throughout their lives. Some may later decide to be exclusively Lesbian or heterosexual. Our sexuality develops over time. Don't worry if you aren't sure.

Am I normal? "We're told that it's sick, or perverted, or sinful, or abnormal. But the people who tell us that are the same ones who say that women belong in the kitchen, and that Black people are inferior, and that handicapped people are useless. Who's to say what's normal? Some people think eating raw fish is normal, and other people think it's disgusting and abnormal" Terryle, age 16.

"I think we're very brave to have recognised this in ourselves and to have wanted to come to terms with it" Natalie, age 18.

Yes, you are normal. It's perfectly natural for people to be attracted to members of their own sex. But it's not something that's encouraged in our society. Many people push away these feelings because of prejudice against gay men and Lesbians.

Most scientific experts agree that a person's sexual orientation is determined at

some people don't accept Lesbians and gay men. Lesbians and gay men suffer from discrimination and violence. That's why there are many gay and Lesbian organisations that work for gay and Lesbian civil rights.

"Once I accepted myself and my sexuality, I found that I became more involved in life with my friends because I was more comfortable with myself" Tammi, age 18..

"I feel down and depressed a lot because of the homophobia that I'm constantly up against, but then I realise that I have the power to educate other members of my generation" Tammy, age 17

Who should I tell? "You shouldn't feel pressured to tell anyone at all until you are comfortable with the idea of being a Lesbian yourself. Be prepared that people's reactions will vary" Tammi, age 18. "Only tell someone if you feel you have enough support to face what may happen. Try to tell someone if you think you can't deal with these feelings alone anymore. If you think your family might flip out, tell

(Continued to page 24)



Looking After My Baby

Bouricot

Media Watch



Priest

By *Barrie Brandon*

Priest, the film which was on recently at Cine Art was a really moving spectacle. It portrayed the Roman Catholic Church, in the case of the older priest, as caring, thoughtful and sensitive. And in the case of the hierarchy, in the person of the bishop, as being worldly, grasping, political and scheming.

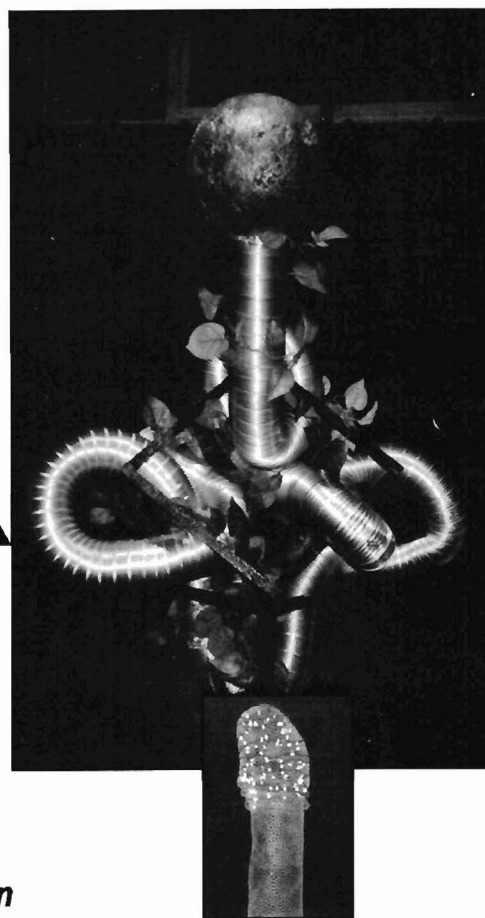
Filmed in Liverpool, UK, the film caused a storm when first released in the US and UK from Gay groups and the radical right. The controversial figure is a young, newly ordained, priest who is struggling to come to terms with his homosexuality and the poor inner city parish to which he's been posted.

In a very moving scene at the end of the film the older priest tells the congregation, in the middle of the service, that if they can't accept people for what they are then they (the congregation) have no place in the church—and to get out. Ah, if only that were true for many churches and religions today!

I suppose it is symptomatic of Hong Kong that this excellent film was released to a second rate circuit and not, say UA. It was a sign of the times too that it merited a category 3 rating...there were only two scenes I thought even slightly homoerotic. The one where the priest and a guy he's met in a Gay bar are naked on a bed and kissing. That's all just naked and kissing, the audience doesn't even get to see their willies! The other scene, which might have attracted the censors attention (although I can't see why) happens when the same two people are caught, by police, in each other's arms in a car. That's all. They were simply holding each other, fully clothed and buttoned up, not a willy in sight, or mentioned.

The only possible reason that the film could have attracted a category 3 status, in the opinion of the many people I spoke to who saw it, is that it deals with homosexuality, and that as we all know draws an immediate 3 rating whether in fact it warrants one or not.

For a refreshing change the audience, who appeared to be mainly students, were enthusiastic and sensitive to the film. There wasn't any of the silly sniggering at the Gay characters or plot as there most certainly was in the Wedding Banquet.



Although Priest isn't a Gay film per se, it is a film that gives us an understanding of what life must be like for those who have taken the vow of celibacy, although that does not, of course, include as many mistakenly believe chastity.

When you have the chance to get this film on laser disc or video then I urge you to BUY it—it's sure to become a classic in the fullness of time.

Phallic Exhibition

The penis was the central theme of the controversial art exhibition held at the Fringe Club late July. It featured over 20 local artists and had photos, paintings and mixed-media pieces all of which had the penis as its central theme.

The aim of the exhibition was to protest against the Obscene Articles Tribunal's (OAT) ruling of *The New Man* by Dame Elisabeth Frink.

"Frankly the exhibition was a major let-down" said our reporter Danny Wong. Here was a great chance to them what Hong Kong people thought of them (OAT) and all we got were a few erect penises".

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Filipino Celebration of Fiesta and Independence

Noel Boado

The Philippines is a tropical paradise located in the middle of Asia's Pacific Rim. The country is made up of over 7,100 islands covered with lush vegetation and bounded by white sandy beaches. It is home to over 50 million Filipinos who are some of the most peculiar people in the world. Situated at the cross-roads of the old trade routes, the islands have been a stopping point for explorers, voyagers and adventurers. Mactan, an island in the Visayas was the landing point of Magellan, claimed the island for Spain and named it Filipinas (after King Philip II). Mactan, incidentally, is where Magellan was also killed and buried in 1521.

For many years, the Spanish galleons sailed back and forth between Madrid, Acapulco and Manila, bringing to the Philippines not only goods and people, but also the culture typical of West-

ern Europe. Because the islands were under Spain's rule for almost 400 years, the country's customs and traditions became Spanish-inspired. The country is a perfect example of how east meets west, as noted in the language, the cuisine, and especially the culture of the natives.

Catholicism, which plays a heavy role in the lifestyle of most Filipinos, dictates most of the major events in their lives. Filipinos observe all the holidays of the Church, with Lent being the most holy of seasons. Along with all the numerous days of obligation, when Catholics pay homage to the Church, Filipinos also celebrate the commemoration of their local patron saint by feasting and making visits to the church on that day. This event is the fiesta, literally meaning feast. Every year, Filipinos celebrate almost 300 fiestas all over the country. It is a party of major proportions. The people in town start the celebration by decorating their main street with banners and streamers, usually in fiesta colours such as red, blue, and yellow. Flowers are everywhere, with almost everyone in town making an offering of bouquets or leis made out of fragrant sampaguita or ilang-ilang for their patron saint.



the Filipino's love of gaiety, singing contests are held. Folk dancing exhibition are held where they dance to the tinikling (a dance with the bamboo poles, imitating little tikling birds) and the kuratsa (lover's dance). The palosebo (greased pole) contest is also held, where young men try to climb to the top of a greased bamboo pole where a hanging pot is filled with goodies. Food stands are set up where they serve local delicacies such as pancit (noodles) and dinuguan (blood stew), accompanied by halo-halo (a mixture of fruits and coconuts on ice) and sago (tapioca drink). As the rondalla (string band) plays, you can hear the laughter as older men, who at this point are quite inebriated,

try to sing their favourite kundiman (love songs).

An over abundance of food is normal for these parties. Liquor is overflowing, as the people tap into their year's savings which they have been reserving just for this event. The dining table of most families, graced with lechon (a sucking pig roasted to a golden brown and garnished with an apple in the mouth)



is the main focus of every home during the fiesta. There are home-made delicacies such as puto (rice cakes) and macapuno (coconut preserves) as well as bibingka and cochinta (various kinds of rice cakes) served in platters along with salabat (ginger tea) or coffee. Friends and acquaintances share at least one meal with a family during this celebration and everyone is expected to eat because of the Filipino's unwritten rule of hospitality, "no one leaves a party unfed."

The celebration lasts all day as the men congregate to "shoot the breeze" while consuming enormous amounts of basi (coconut wine) or tuba (sugar cane liquor). The women, on the other hand, stay in the kitchen and tend to replenishing the food and feeding the guests. There is plenty of singing and dancing accompanied by guitars and bandurias (a small string instrument similar to a ukulele), all through the day as they anticipate the evening procession, which is the highlight of Fiesta.

The image of the patron saint is placed on a platform and then wheeled or carried down the main street on a candlelight vial. People march along with the image, singing religious hymns as the procession makes a full circle around the inner part of town, and returning to the church for a mass afterwards. After the mass, people gather in the town plaza, where they have built a miniature carnival. The carnival features various activities for the town's people and visitors alike. They have gambling tables where one can make bets on card or dice games. In recent years, American carnival games such as basketball shoots and water miniature roller coasters have also been added. Dances are held in small but usually crowded dance halls, loosely constructed out of sawali (bamboo siding) and pawid (coconut leaf roofing). With

the last forty years and the festivities would not be complete without it. the performers are gay men impersonating a movie star or actress, lip synching to the latest tunes on a makeshift stage, while the ushers sell tickets for a roulette game. Once the tickets are sold and the performer finishes his number, the roulette wheel is spun, with the winner usually taking home a prize of housewares or linens.

The first time I saw a drag queen at the perya. I could not believe my eyes. At seven years, I never thought that men could so much like women or that these were even men. (Of course, little did I know that I would walk down the same path a few Halloween's later!) There was "Miss Nerissa Moran" (an impersonator of Sophia Loren), in a black sequined mini-skirt and thigh-high "wet look" boots. She was so pretty, with her bouffant hair and corkscrew sideburns, doing a Petula Clark song.

These performers were so good they had people actually gawking at them, mostly out of disbelief. It is quite amazing that with the limited resources these performers had, they were still able to create the same illusion with the same effect as those performers fortunate enough to have make-up artists and costume designers. Though taunted and teased when they are out of their stage persona, these drag queens are the belles of the ball!

Although the main celebration lasts a entire day, some other fiestas could last up to several days and, in some cases, the fairs extend up to two weeks before or after the actual day of the fiesta. After the fiesta has ended, it is time once again to scrimp and save for the next fiesta bash.

Does **I**t **M**atter?

My parents asked me if I am gay.

I said, "Does it matter?"

They said, "No, not really."

I told him, "Yes."

They said, "Get out of our lives!"

I guess it mattered.

My Boss asked me if I am gay.

I said, "Does it matter?"

He said, "No, not really."

I told him, "Yes."

He said, "You're fired, faggot."

I guess it mattered.

My friend asked me if I am gay.

I said, "Does it matter?"

He said, "No, not really."

I told him, "Yes."

He said, "Don't call me your friend."

I guess it mattered.

My lover asked, "Do you love me?"

I said, "Does it matter?"

He said, "Yes."

I told him, "I love you."

He said, "Let me hold you in my arms."

For the first time in my life something matters.

My God asked, "Do you love yourself?"

I said, "Does it matter?"

He said, "Yes."

I asked, "How can I love myself? I am gay."

He said, "That is the way I made you."

Nothing will ever matter again.

Thanks to Dignity the international organisation for Gay Roman Catholics and their friends.



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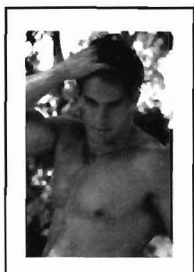
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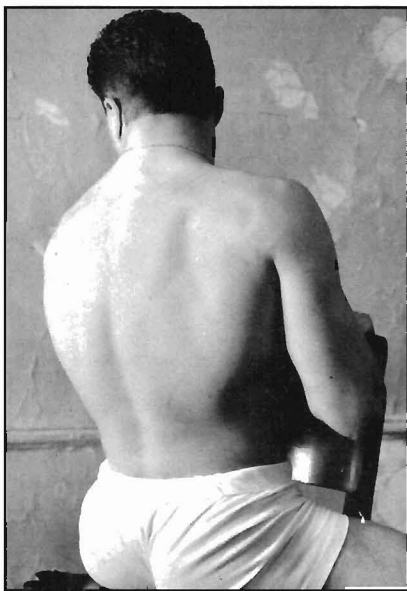
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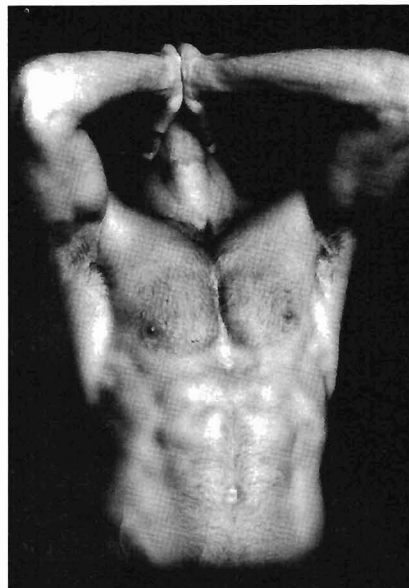
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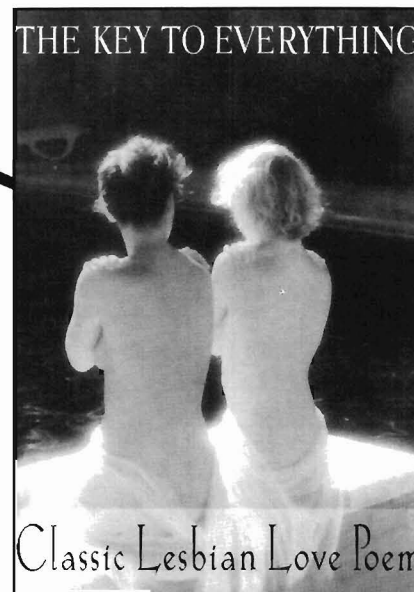
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DISCOVERY

By Nicholas Lam



BOY

It was a usual night in Discovery Bay, with the usual warm rain reminiscent of the Hong Kong summer. I was feeling quite bored with the things that were going on in my life at this point. A crazy, overly emotional flatmate. Bills were coming at a rate faster than usual. Luckily, this was a long weekend, Liberation Day they called it. There was an AIDS vigil near the Star Ferry over the weekend. My flatmate had stormed out of the apartment in a huff over something I didn't understand. He'd packed a suitcase this morning, and left, gratefully for the weekend.

Oh sure, I could have gone to see a film, or gone to play Mah Jong with a couple of friends. But I was feeling strangely alone, and didn't really want anyone to change that for me.

At least for now.

I had watched a couple of films on the television. Enjoyed the excitement of watching the crew of the Enterprise get in and out of the tragedy of a planet that didn't believe in sex. Eeeeeek, what a scary thought. I continued to watch the tube, and decided during one of the inevitable reruns, Blanche, Rose, and of course that loveable Dorothy. This was one that I had not seen, Dorothy finds out that her more than perfect brother is gay. If that wasn't a shocker.

It happens to the best of us I suppose. After reviewing the possibilities for entertainment from the electronic box I decided that it would be a good idea to go out to the bar. After all it had been nearly three months since I wandered out to see what was out there.

I took a quick shower and dressed casually, but comfortably. I wandered through the streets watching the variously attired pedestrians, with the multicoloured dresses full of sequins and gold lame, and those dressed in black, to the old man reeking of alcohol. "I can just go out and look around. I won't stay long." I thought to myself, as I walked up Wyndham Street to the ever popular Propaganda. I walked in the door and immediately noticed the changes, with the neon lighting, and the change of the entrance altogether. I paid the man behind the counter my entrance fee, and said hello to the doorman. I headed into the bar. The place had had a few changes. They were pretty noticeable, and looked good that night. There was the ever present thump, thump, thump in pleasingly rhythmic way from the speakers. There were a small number of people already in the bar, most of them soaking their gills in the alcohol. I went up the to the bar and got a shandy, and stationed myself so I could watch the influx of men.

It was kind of nice to be able to just stand there and watch the coming and going. There was one man who I noticed standing off to the side, gently smiling and slowly drinking a coke. He was tall, probably around six foot two or three, well proportioned, wearing a shirt with vertical light blue strips, acid washed jeans, and grey cowboy boots. He was standing next to someone and chatting with him occasionally. I watched him for a short time,

and later on as I wandered around the bar a couple of times, I could see that when I stopped he had moved so he was in full view of me each time. I didn't make an attempt to talk to him, or approach him, since I was just there to look around, and get out of Discovery Bay.

After finishing the shandy, I decided to go in the other bar on the hill, YY. So I wandered over there, and was expecting a reasonable crowd, but the place was almost empty. I ordered a beer and wandered around a bit, and went outside, where I could watch the people walking up and down the street.

I decided to smoke a cigarette, and was sitting there listening to the music, when I noticed the same man walking up the stairs. He wandered around the bar and looked, and didn't really notice anyone. When he was walking back towards me, and glancing at the posters and prints along the wall he glanced at me occasionally. He finally settled down at the table just in front of me by the window. He was facing towards the middle of the bar, offering his profile. I had a chance to watch him and study him a bit more. He had dark brown hair, and deep innocent looking eyes that held a secret of intelligence. I could tell also in the light that his skin was soft and healthy. My thoughts began to wander to the various fantasies about me and him, having wild passionate sex.

I must have been staring, when he turned around, "Hello," and smiled. "Oh, Hello" I said meekly, not really sure what to say after that I quickly averted my eyes by looking out of the window. I glanced over at him, still thinking deeply of what it would be like to be enveloped in the warmth of his strong arms, snuggled closely to his firm body. I would have fantasised farther, but he occasionally glanced over at me, stopping the thoughts that I had. He had a warm, and inviting smile, and I smiled back at him. After a short time, "See you later" and he got up and headed out of the bar.

I kicked myself for not starting a conversation with him. I guess it was feeling unworthy. I sat and smoked another cigarette and quickly drained the beer.

I wandered back to Propaganda. There were some cute men wandering around the streets on their way into and out of the bar, but I didn't really notice them, I was still remembering the vision of the man in the cowboy boots. The strong lines his ass and legs had, thinking - fantasising about the possibilities.

I walked into the bar and looked around. There was a plethora of men running around in various forms of dress, from the tight, leaving nothing to the imagination Spandex, to baggy light cotton pants. There were men wearing sweaters, tank tops, or no shirt at all glistening with their sweat from dancing out on the already crowded dance floor.

The bar was filling steadily, with people. People who were smiling and laughing with friends. People who were quietly sitting by themselves, with no life behind their eyes, just there, searching, maybe as I was, for that special someone to make like more bearable.

I went to the bar and talked to a friend that works there and ordered a beer and situated myself the best way I could next to a tall slim man. He had sharp brown eyes, and smooth skin with high cheek bones. I noticed that his hair was long and well kept. He seemed to be just watching, and quite content slowly sipping on his beer. He was dressed in a black and white shirt, and seemed content with his surroundings. He turned once, saying nothing, and behind the brown of his eyes there seemed to be thought and a slight sparkle. I considered chatting with him—such a hard thing to do when you are standing immersed in rhythmic bursts of sound.

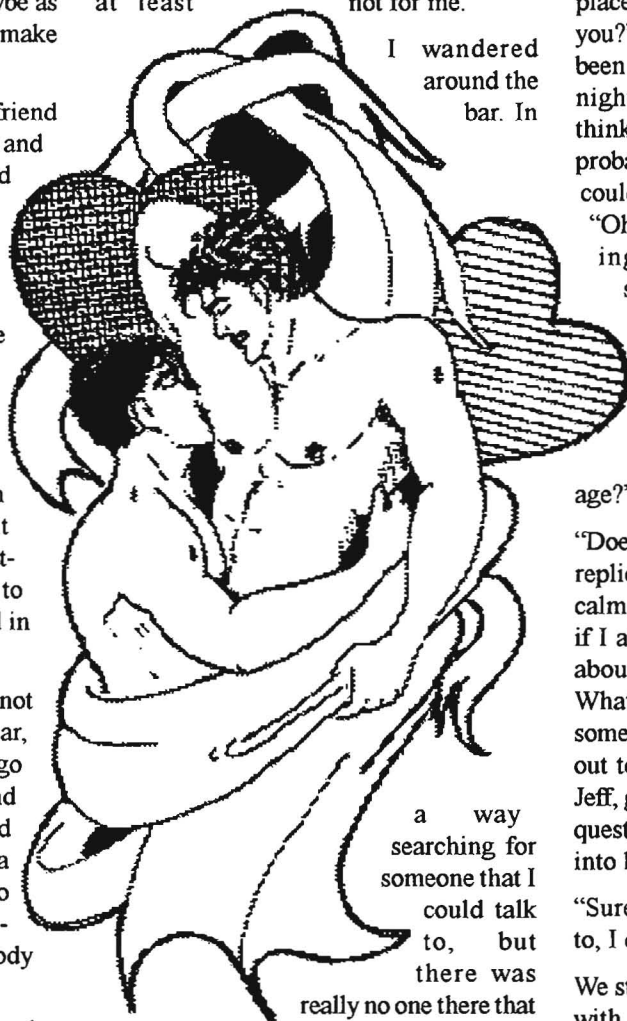
I continued to quietly stand there, not really recognising anyone in the bar, which was fine with me. Since I did go just to watch. I was looking around and again the man with the blue striped shirt came into view again, only a short distance away. I continued to look at him occasionally, still harbouring thoughts of how warm his body would feel next to mine.

I noticed that when he would go out the dance floor, usually by himself, that the friend he was with would send those possessive looks across towards me. That look, "Stay away from him. He's mine. He doesn't know it and would never consider it, but he's mine. Keep your hands off!" I have seen it before, and I certainly have given it to a number of people when I have been out with my lover, or even a friend that I was sexually attracted to, but didn't have the guts to tell him, afraid of losing or tainting the friendship with needless problems.

I watched him dance. He was quite good at his dancing and seemed to just dance naturally, relaxed, and glancing occasion

ally over at me, catching my eye, and smiling in an inviting way.

I still didn't act on any of the eye contact, and some of the signals that he gave me, by eye contact, smiling, looking at me, when it would have been easier to watch where he was going. That type of signal. I would have acted upon it, but I am never sure about the art of cruising, and rejection is something that I like to avoid. I still think that it is easier to cut the small talk, and say what is on my mind, but "Let's go fuck" just doesn't work anymore, at least not for me.



ally over at me, catching my eye, and smiling in an inviting way.

Which was fine with me.

I got yet another beer and headed into the quiet part of the bar. The music level was more tolerable, and there was plenty of seating there.

Two reasons actually, I could sit down and have a quiet cigarette without the nasty glancing of the non-smoker that I always seem to be standing by in crowded situations, and to watch the man, that had slowly crept into my mind with fantasies.

He started to wander around and would disappear occasionally. I just sat and listened to the music, smoked a couple of cigarettes, and watched the various gyrating bodies on the dance floor, smiling, laughing, and some falling down, how festive. I was deeply engrossed in watching the crowd, not paying that much attention to the two queens talking about the importance of their jobs over the others, and their mother's heart-stopping reaction to the scene in the bar.

I was beginning to get bored with the place, when "Hi, do you mind if I sit with you?" It was the man, the MAN, I had been watching and fantasising about all night! "Sure, I don't mind, I was just thinking about heading home," replying probably looking real nervous, afraid he could tell what I was fantasising about. "Oh, don't leave yet," he pleaded, seating himself across the awkwardly shaped table, "I have been trying to work up the courage to come over and talk to you."

"You? The man that I have been thinking, fantasising, dreaming about all night working up the courage?" I thought to myself.

"Does it look like I bite or something?" I replied to him, easing a cigarette out to calm my already shaking nerves. "No, not if I ask you not," he chided. We laughed about that one. "Okay, that is a deal. What's your name? Might as well start somewhere." I enquired reaching my hand out to him, "My name is Bob." "Name's Jeff, good to meet you. Can I ask you some questions?" He implored taking my hand into his warm, smooth strong hand.

"Sure, you can ask me anything you want to, I don't have any secrets."

We started to talk the small talk that goes with meeting someone in a bar. We covered the where are you from's, the what do you do's, what do you like to do's, the marital status, all the usual questions. During the conversation we wondered down together to grab some of the tasty, or somewhat tasty goodies from the "buffet" that Propaganda has every Friday and Saturday.

While we were talking and nibbling on the food, I discovered that not only was his name Jeff, but he worked as a manager for Telecom, liked to read, watch films, swim and so many other things. We continue to explore each other's lives with more and more questions and answers. We had sat there oblivious to the various peo-

ple wandering around, ordered a drink from one of the "bar maids". It was nearing three o'clock when I we got to the point of wanting to leave with each other for a night of bliss and fun.

"Look, it's getting late, and I was only to come out for about an hour or two." I said looking at my watch. He quickly reached out and placed his warm hands on my arm, "I would like to continue talking to you, do you mind me coming along with you?" "Sure, my flat-mate is away this weekend, so there won't be any interruptions." "We just have to get the ferry in time!"

We got up and headed out of the bar, "Oh I should tell my friend that I am leaving." He didn't get far because his friend was right on our heels. They faded back a bit, and talked for a few minutes. It seemed that his friend didn't quite appreciate me taking his Jeff away, oooops. I got the "How dare you, you heathen, home wrecking slut!" look as Jeff walked away from his friend.

Jeff approached me after his chat with his friend. When he got to me, I remarked, "He didn't seem too pleased that you were leaving with me. Do you think he will get over it?"

"Sure, he is always possessive that way. We're just friends, but he seems to think that has some sort of ownership properties. I like him though, he's a good friend."

It was raining of course, and we walked towards the ferry for Discovery Bay.

The Place was still open so I mentioned that a cup of coffee would be good, before the ferry ride, Jeff readily agreed. We sat at one of the tables, getting a few stares from the crowd in the bar, but we settled in one of the booths against the wall and talked some more. "I have to admit something to you Jeff. I am stalling about going home with you, nothing against you, just nervous about being with you." He took me into his arms and kissed me passionately there in the booth, and pulled away for a moment and looked at me "I want to be with you, not anyone else, with you. Does that help you with some of your fear?" He kissed me gently passionately again, caressing me firmly with his arms and hands.

We finished the coffee and talked a bit more, sitting close to each other. I ran my hands up and down his leg, which he obligingly flexed occasionally to give me an idea of the solidness of his body. It felt good to be close to a warm man again, talking and sharing some time together.

We got to my apartment just after the 4 a.m. ferry docked at Discovery Bay. We went in and he commented on the apartment, and the usual questions about the computer, all of that. We sat and talked for nearly two hours after we got there, the television churning out old, and bad films throughout the night, neither of us really noticing the action, entwined in the conversation, the hugging, and holding that we were engaging in. We had slowly been undressing each other, slowly taking the clothes off, placing them neatly on the couch.

He had a wonderful body, well defined, smooth and very warm. The warmth of someone that radiates a lot of heat. It was nice to see such a man of beauty, and he was enjoying my attention, and company as much, as we chatted together, in soft tones, exploring each others bodies with our hands, and our tongues.

We moved into the bedroom and curled up into each other's arms and slept soundly after stroking, and licking. We didn't engage in sex, just the petting, and once we got into comfortable positions, he wrapped himself gently and warmly around me I slept soundly and safely with him. This morning I woke up to find him leaning on his shoulder watching me sleep. We got up and he pulled me into the shower. We enjoyed the hot water splashing each other's bodies, and gently soaping each other, exploring each other from a different perspective. He lathered me up with soap, as I lathered him with the soap. He scrubbed my back with those strong hands gently massaging the already relaxed muscles, and he began to nuzzle his lips into the side of my neck from the behind. We stroked and petted each other in the shower the clean smell of men permeating the bathroom. We did have safe sex in the shower, and I certainly enjoyed it.

It wasn't like the sleazy flicks, get wet, stroke twice, and groans, it was gentle deliberate caressing, stroking, and sharing. It was one of the best times that I had spent with another man. Loving, sharing, and memorable, so I don't really feel like being too explicit here, but it was something that was marvellously memorable.

We said good bye this morning after going out to breakfast, and didn't arrange a time to see each other again. I may see and taste this man once again, I do not know, all I do know is...if I never share with this man again, I will not forget, and isn't that what life is for? Isn't that the good life?

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By Appointment only

(Continued from page 12)

someone who might be more impartial” Sarah, age 19.

“When I told a couple of my friends, I told them I was no different now than I was five minutes before I told them, except that now I wasn’t keeping a big secret from them” Terryle, age 16.

Coming out is the process of accepting yourself as a Lesbian and figuring out how open you want to be about your sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, not everyone you know will think that being a Lesbian is the greatest thing since sliced bread. It’s hard to know who can handle the information and give you support. Some friends may accept you. Some may turn away from you or tell other people without your permission. Telling family can be very difficult. Some families are very supportive. But some Lesbian and gay youth have been kicked out of their homes when their parents found out.

Maybe there’s a guidance counsellor or social worker in your school, or in a local youth or counselling agency, that you can

like and don’t like to do sexually, whether we feel ready to have sex or not, and different expectations we may have about the relationship. And it’s important to talk about whether we’re at risk for HIV, the virus that is thought to cause AIDS, or other sexually transmitted diseases, like herpes.

There are many ways that Lesbians can be sexual with each other. We can give each other pleasure by holding, kissing, hugging, stroking, stimulating each other’s genitals with our tongues and hands, inserting our fingers into each other’s vaginas, rubbing our bodies together to stimulate each other, and anything else we want to do. We can use our imaginations!

Do I have to worry about AIDS? All of us should know about HIV, the virus believed to be the cause of AIDS how it’s transmitted and how we can prevent ourselves from becoming infected. You and your partner should discuss your risk factors for HIV infection and decide what, if any, safer sex methods you should use.

Lesbians who are at risk are those who: Share needles if using IV drugs. Have

myself. And I try to do things I feel good about doing” Sarah, age 19.



All people have a right to feel good about themselves. We’re all valuable human beings.

Developing self-esteem is very important for young people. It’s hard for gay and Lesbian youth to feel good about ourselves because all around us are people who believe that we’re sick, or perverted, or destined to live very unhappy lives.

Lesbian

Life

trust. It’s important to have someone to talk to because it’s not normal or healthy for young people to have to keep secret such an important part of their lives. What about sex? “First I would ask myself if I felt ready. Then I would talk to my partner to see if she felt ready. When you decide to have sex, it feels good when you’ve made the right decision. Only you can know when it is and isn’t right for you to have sex” Tammi, age 18.

“Just because you’re turned on to someone doesn’t mean you’re ready to have sex. You have to feel emotionally ready. It’s important that the two people talk about what they like and don’t like. No one should have to do something they don’t want to do. There’s no need to rush things. It’ll come in time” Terryle, age 16.

Deciding whether or not to be sexual with someone is a big decision. You may feel very scared at the thought of having sex with another woman. That’s OK. Lots of us do, especially if it’s our first time.

Women aren’t encouraged in our society to talk openly about sex, but it’s important that we communicate about what we

vaginal intercourse with men without using condoms. (It’s fairly common for young Lesbians to occasionally have sexual contact with men.) Have oral sex with an infected woman without the use of a barrier to protect against infected vaginal secretions or menstrual blood.

Safer sex for Lesbians includes: Use of a dental dam for oral-vaginal and oral-anal stimulation. A dental dam is a piece of latex about 5 inches square designed for use in dental surgery. They are available at dental or medical supply stores. Use of surgical gloves when sticking your fingers into your partner’s vagina or ass, especially if you have tiny cuts or rashes on your hands. And all the other wonderful things that Lesbians do together.

How do we learn to like ourselves? “It’s important that we don’t deny our feelings. If we be who we truly want to be in our hearts, we can be surprised at how happy we can be. And we should think a lot about all our positive points, and being a Lesbian is very positive” Rebecca, age 16.

“It helps me to interact with people who make me feel happy and good about

When we feel like we have to hide who we really are, it can make us feel like hurting ourselves, like through alcohol, drugs, or suicide. We may feel very isolated, fearful, and depressed, especially if we’ve had no one to talk to about the fact that we’re Lesbians.

More and more, we, as young Lesbians, are learning to like who we are. It helps to read good books about Lesbians — books that have accurate information in them and that are written about Lesbians who are leading very fulfilling lives. It also helps to meet other Lesbians because then we find out that Lesbians are as diverse as any other group of people and that we’ve been told a lot of lies by our society.

It can help to say to yourself every day, “I’m a Lesbian and I’m OK.” And try to find someone to talk to who also believes that Lesbians are OK. Remember: it’s normal and natural to be a Lesbian, just like it’s normal and natural for some people to be heterosexual.

How can I meet other Lesbians? “There are many Lesbians around you, but you don’t know they’re Lesbians, just as they

don't know that you're a Lesbian. Don't lose hope. You'll eventually meet some" Sarah, age 19.

Make contact with local feminist organisations. Phone one of the local Lesbian and Gay groups.

Books: *One Teenager in Ten: Writings by Gay and Lesbian Youth*, ed. Ann Heron, Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA 02118 (1983) USA. *Young, Gay and Proud*, a resource book for gay and Lesbian youth, also published by Alyson Publications. *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves*, Boston's Women's Health Book Collective, Simon & Schuster, Inc. (1984). Con

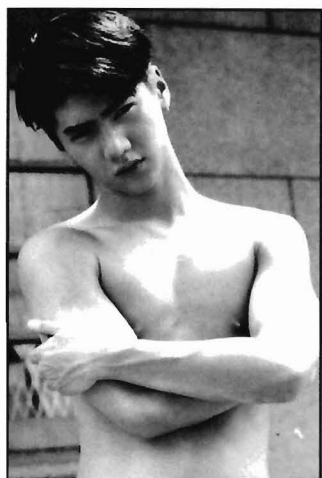
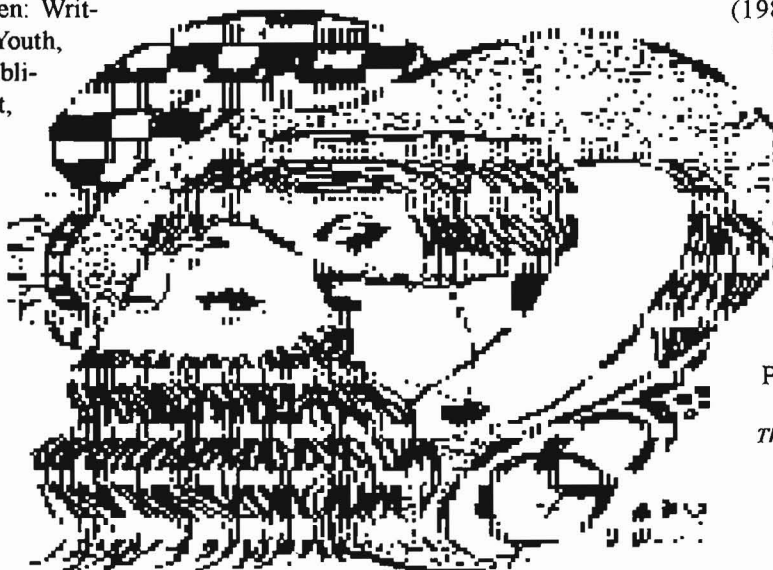
tains a great chapter on Lesbian life and relationships. *Lesbian Connection*, a monthly newsletter available from Helen Diner Memorial Women's Centre, Ambitious Amazons, P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, Michigan 48826. USA *Our Right*

to Love: *A Lesbian Resource Book*, ed. Ginny Vida, Prentice-Hall, Inc. (1978). *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Colour*, eds. Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldua, Kitchen Table: Women of Colour Press, P.O. Box 908, Latham, New York 12110-0908 USA

(1981). *Lesbian Sex*, by Jo Ann Loulan, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, P.O. Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141 USA (1984). *Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology*, ed. Evelyn Torton Beck, The Crossing Press (1982).

It is not economical to go to bed early to save the candles if the result is twins. Chinese Proverb

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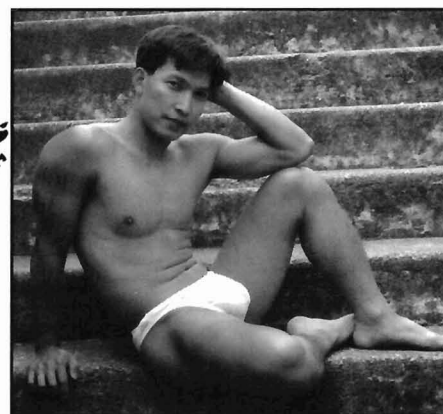
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Tells All...

Closeted

Dear Fifi,

Recently my mother asked me if I was Gay. I had to deny the truth of course, but she has asked me in the past, and will most likely ask me again in the future. How can I keep her off my back?

Closeted in Sham Shui Po

Dear Closeted,

You must be the only one in Sham Shui Po who is closeted! Last time I went up there I felt like a major place of masculinity with all those nelly queens and TV's walking around!

My assistant claims the real question is can you afford to move out of your mother's home? But I'm sure that the day you move out, you'll be back for some of that good ole home cooking, and every Sunday when Dim Sum and Mah-jong comes around, you'll be back to Mama's apron string... And that hot little number you met the night before will never enter the day's conversation.

Whether you're a Gianni Versace clone, or all your jeans are Texwoods, your mother has most likely known you for your entire life. And if she was smart enough to give birth to someone as bright as you, she ain't no dummy. You may have "Gaydar," but your indecision over Barbie or G. I. Joe when you were 9 didn't go unnoticed.

Mama isn't asking if you're Gay, she's reminding you to keep it to yourself! And, if you haven't got the balls, (or the breasts) to be out with your family, then you certainly do deserve to live in fear, intimidation, and self hatred! Remember darling, if every Gay man and Lesbian told only

his/her family s/he was Gay, then everyone in the world would know a queer. They'd then find out how normal (boring) we really are, and quit making such a fuss in all the newspaper every day!

Angry

Dear Fifi:

The last time I went out with my boyfriend, he took me to a Gay bar. While I have nothing against Gay bars, (in fact I met him in one) I was very frustrated because he kept flirting with all the other boys. I felt neglected, hurt, rejected, trashed, not to mention fat & ugly. What should I do?

Helpless in Hong Kong

Dear Helpless,

You sound about as pitiful as the lion on the Wizard of Oz! Try taking that cucumber skin mask off BEFORE you go out on the weekends. By the way, you probably ARE fat and ugly - did you ever hear of a thin, attractive person feeling fat and ugly? I think not!

But why would you hang out with a bunch of flirtatious queens when you are supposed to be bonding? You have serious work at hand, you need to program this man to realise that his very existence depends on you alone. You are not safe until he asks you which colour Calvins to put on in the morning. (and using the telephone to ask does not count!) Silly, silly you should absolutely never take a queer to a queer bar on a date! That's what restaurants and cinemas are for. So make use of them. After all, why would he agree to go view more of your etchings if what just walked into the toilet is what he's really after?

Highly Paid

Dear Fifi,

I have a new man in my life, and I feel absolutely wonderful! The sex is great, and his breath isn't too bad (if I'm drunk). The problem is that I know he is very highly paid, but he never takes me out on the town. What should I do?

Bored at home

Dear Bored,

I always say, when life deals you out a bowl of lemons, why not mix up a fresh batch of lemon/draino douche? No, just kidding - never douche with draino. (Draino is for gargling only) If the sex is so great, why in the world would you want to go out? Dominoes delivers, and maybe he's ashamed of you, you little gold digger! I would be too, and I always have good breath.

But if you really want him to take you out, why not try cooking something for him yourself? Surely a whiner like you must be a lousy cook! He'll be begging to go to American Pie by the time you serve him the soup. But I tell you honestly, most of us are conjuring up all sorts of ways to keep their men home. It's better to be bored at home then bored at the bars, and besides, the KY is usually within an arm's reach at home.

Until next time, keep the condoms coming. And if you have any more scintillating questions, you can reach Fifi at Box 555 Contacts Magazine

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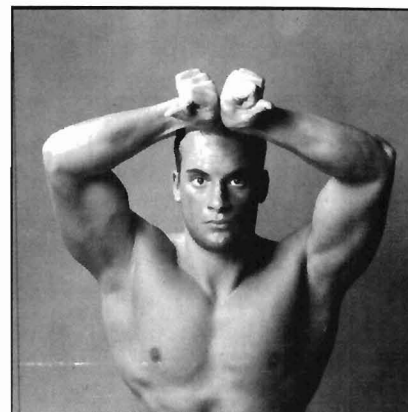
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If you are Chinese, short, hairy & chubby. I want you for my teddy bear. Box 190

Chinese, 31, sincere straight appearing. Seeks similar guy, 27-35 for fellowship. Box 191

A man of 26 years. Want to love and to be loved. Page me if you want to know me. 112 8991 a/c 262

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Boyish, 22, Chinese, med-build, charming looks. Seeks a mature considerate, stable gentleman to share my everything. Waiting for you. Box 181

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Tel: 2588-1296

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AIDS

INFORMATION

AIDS CONCERN

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General Enquiries: 2898-4411
General Enquires Tel: 560-8528
Helpline: 2513-0513
Infoline: 170 222 170



HIV INFORMATION & DROP-IN CENTRE

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SOCIAL GROUPS **HORIZONS**

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Social Activities



ISVARA

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Tel: 1128903 a/c 8862 Mr. Lo
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(Mainly Chinese Speaking)

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